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adversaries as to himself. It was simply his brilliant forehandedness which gave him the appearance of being the aggressor. The wars themselves were terrible and bloody, the waste of human energy was appalling ; but dynastic politics, like slavery or any other shameful anachronism which blocks the development of human society, perishes only in hideous convulsions. The economic question, however insistent and broad, was not the *primum mobile* of the Napoleonic epoch.

By way of illuminating his subject, Lumbroso gives in the second portion of his book a series of monographs on French finances, on smuggling and contraband, on Napoleon's self-justification, and on the effects of the system in Scandinavia, Russia, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and America. These are all well done and for the specialist they were worth doing. The substance of the whole matter is that the Orders in Council and the Berlin Decree were alike measures of desperation, influencing the final results of the European struggle little or not at all.

This excellent book concludes with an appendix of original documents which occupy a hundred pages and a very interesting bibliography extending over about forty more. The volume may be recommended to the student with little or no reserve. As was remarked at the beginning, its plan gives it a patchy appearance, and the author would be styled by the general reader a compiler with a passion for *inedita*. But this is after all only appearance, and the *Saggio* is a true historical essay as well as an original contribution to the subject.

*Histoire Politique de l'Europe Contemporaine ; Évolution des Partis et des Formes politiques. 1814-1896. Par CH. SEIGNOBOS, Maître de Conférences à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Paris. (Paris : Armand Colin et Cie. 1897. Pp. xii, 800.)*

"THE greatest obstacle in the way of him who would write the history of the nineteenth century," says Professor Seignobos in his preface, "is the immense number of documents. The strict historical method calls for the direct study of sources. But the life of a man would not suffice—I do not say to study and criticise—but to *read* the official documents of even a single European country. It is, therefore, materially impossible to write a contemporaneous history of Europe in conformity with the principles of the critical method."

Consequently, in order to avoid this difficulty, Professor Seignobos has adopted a course which, though logically more imperfect than the correct method, "is more practical and suffices for the attainment of at least a part of historical truth." As the facts of contemporary political history are exposed in monographs, special works and annuals, all written at first hand, Professor Seignobos considers that abstracts from, and analyses of, the documents contained in these works are reliable enough to dispense one, ordinarily, from the necessity of going to the original sources of information.

The second difficulty encountered, according to Professor Seignobos, by the writer on contemporary history is the impossibility of citing authorities, which is again due to excessive abundance. But he also holds the abandonment of this custom excusable. "The general facts," he says, "stand out so clearly from a perusal of the documents, and are so surely established, that it is necessary only to indicate the works in which the demonstration is made." So this book contains, particularly in the first part, almost no foot-notes. Their place is taken by a bibliography, largely of a critical nature, at the end of each chapter.

In this matter of bibliographies, Professor Seignobos has again had to substitute an expedient for the usual practice. He truly remarks: "A bibliography of contemporary history drawn up according to erudite rules would fill a volume." So he has limited his lists to what is indispensable, mentioning only general bibliographical volumes and histories which refer the reader to works going into details, the principal documentary collections and the best monographs on each question. While all students of contemporary Europe may not always agree with Professor Seignobos' estimates, and may question the right of admission into his lists of certain books and the omission, intentional or otherwise, of certain others, yet, on the whole, no good ground for serious complaint can be found.

"This summary method of reading and citation has obliged me," the preface further says, "to limit my exposition to the general facts of political life, known to all contemporaries and accepted without question. But it is precisely these uncontested facts which form the material for political history. I have not, therefore, tried to establish any disputed fact or to discover any unknown one. It is in bringing together facts general and notorious, but which have been left scattered about, that I think I have reached new conclusions."

In order to keep strictly within the limit thus marked out for himself, Professor Seignobos has almost invariably avoided picturesque descriptions of events, portraits and anecdotes, all of which generally lie without the domain of unquestioned historical material. Accordingly this work, which, as we have already seen, is not of the erudite class, is also perceived, from what has just been said, not to belong to the narrative school. "My aim has been to explain the essential phenomena of the political life of Europe during the nineteenth century," the author says, "by describing the organization of the nations, governments and parties, the political questions which have come up for consideration during the century, and the solution given to them. I have tried to present an *explicative* history." If, as a result, this work is sometimes a little dry and colorless, and often summary and bald, the fault is not so much the author's as that of the requirements of the subject.

Professor Seignobos furthermore says: "Not being able to present a picture of the whole of European civilization, I have purposely confined my attention to political history. I have left at one side all the social phenomena which have no direct action on political life,—art,

science, literature, religion, customs. I have tried especially to explain the formation, composition, tactics and platforms of parties, as being capital factors in the shaping of institutions. My main purpose being to *explain* phenomena by showing how they are linked together, I have admitted into my account such non-political subjects as local administration, the army, the church, education, the press, political speculations and economic questions."

After having thus decided upon the choice of his material, there still remained the difficulty of classing it. Should it be presented in the logical order, which would consist in analyzing the political organization of all European states and then studying the whole question simultaneously in all these states? Or should the preference be given to the chronological order, the favorite method of writers on contemporary history? Or, lastly, should the geographical order be adopted? Professor Seignobos has preferred to employ all three successively and has thus grouped his material under three consecutive heads.

Under the first head, which comprises the bulk of the volume, is considered the home politics of the various European nations. Here the geographical order is followed. Each country is examined separately and in turn, beginning with England, the mother of the political system of modern Europe, followed by France and the rest, and ending with Russia and Turkey, which stand lowest in the scale of political life.

Aside from his natal tongue, Professor Seignobos can read with ease only German and English. His knowledge of Italian is slight and of Spanish still slighter. Thus it is mainly through French and German books that he has been able to study northern, eastern and southern Europe, which necessarily means that he gets his facts at second or third hand. The disadvantages and even dangers of this proceeding need not be pointed out here.

The personal equation is another serious matter in all historical writing and especially in that which has to do with contemporary events. "Political and national impartiality is the capital difficulty of the historian of current affairs," Professor Seignobos truly says. If we take into the account the facts that his personal preferences are for a liberal, laic, democratic and occidental régime, no serious fault can be found, especially by Americans, with his judgments. I have tested him in several very recent happenings in European politics in which he would find it the hardest to shake off personal and national prejudices, and I have always been struck by his fairness, tact and reserve.

The second head, treated according to the logical order, groups together several political phenomena common to different European societies, separating them from the evolution of each people in order to bring out more clearly their general character. Here belong three able chapters devoted to the story of the transformation of the material conditions of political life in Europe during the present century—inventions, new engines of destruction, new means of communication (the telegraph, the railway and the press), etc.—a second chapter given up to the con-

sideration of the Church and the Catholic parties in different parts of Europe, and a third which has to do with the international revolutionary parties.

A republican Frenchman who is, besides, a free-thinker by philosophy and a Protestant by birth, is in a most ticklish position when he ventures to write about the Vatican and its relations with modern European political life. But Professor Seignobos passes through the ordeal with admirable courage. He does not even hesitate to declare that Leo XIII. is not one whit more liberal than Pius IX., but accepts all the doctrines laid down in the famous syllabus, basing his assertion on citations from the former's encyclicals. It is only in the field of practical politics that the present pontiff has departed from the line of conduct of his immediate predecessor. Instead of fighting the governments, he negotiates with them; instead of prolonging a conflict, he strives to stop it. But even here, in so far as his relations with the Italian government are concerned, Leo remains as obstinate as Pius.

The third and last portion of this work is occupied with the foreign relations of European nations since the opening of the present century. The chronological order is here observed. "The object kept in view is not," we are told, "to give an account of diplomatic and military operations . . . but to point out what were, during each period, the capital characteristics of the exterior policies of the principal governments and to explain the transformations of the relations between the states, and the distribution of territory and influence."

This division opens with an examination of Europe under the repressive system of Metternich. Then comes a chapter on the influence exerted by Russia and England during the period extending from 1830 to 1854, which is followed by another chapter on the preponderance of France and the wars for national unification, from 1854 to 1870, the whole concluding with a chapter on the political evolution of Europe during the century, which serves as a sort of *résumé* of the volume and of the whole complex subject.

THEODORE STANTON.

*The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents.* Travels and explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791. The Original French, Latin, and Italian Texts, with English Translations and Notes. Edited by REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Vol. IV. Acadia and Quebec, 1616-1629. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers. 1897. Pp. 272.)

IN this fourth volume is continued and terminated the narrative of Father Biard concerning the destruction of Saint-Sauveur and Port-Royal in 1613 and what became of the French colonists of those two settlements. Here we have the starting-point of the long series of conflicts relative to the delimitation of territories between the English and French